FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JULY 1984

Gulf Conflict

The United Kingdom lodged a protest with Iran concerning the 10 July attack on the UK tanker *British Renown*, according to a Foreign Office official cited by PRESS ASSOCIATION. In reporting this protest, Tehran radio cited AFP's disclosure that the United Kingdom holds Iran responsible for the attack.

Meanwhile, Iraqi claims of an attack on a "maritime target" near an Iranian oil field off Ra's-e Barkan were confirmed by a maritime official in Rotterdam, according to Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. Tehran radio cited an AP report on the attack and a REUTER report that linked this attack to the earlier one against the British tanker.

Kuwait-USSR Arms Talks

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim As-Sabah concluded his talks in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart Marshal Dimitriy Ustinov, Kuwait radio reported. Shaykh Salim described the talks as "fruitful and constructive." In this connection, a Soviet naval official declared the USSR's readiness to meet all Kuwait's requests for Soviet weapons, the radio added. An agreement was reached "in principle" on training Kuwaiti officers in any Soviet weapons purchased, KUNA reported, and the Soviet command expressed readiness to send military experts to Kuwait for training and consultation. However, Shaykh Salim denied that Kuwait intends to sign a military treaty with the USSR, KUNA noted.

Lebanon

Question of Kidnapped Persons — The Cabinet formed committees to follow up a plan to secure the release of all kidnapped persons and to study the "general plan" for liberating the south, Prime Minister Rashid Karami disclosed in remarks broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio following the Cabinet's first meeting at the presidential palace in B'abda.

Negotiations With Israel — A Foreign Ministry official cited by Beirut radio told a French press delegation that Lebanon is ready to conclude a deal with Israel on security arrangements provided that the negotiations are conducted indirectly through "any friendly state" playing the role of a third party.

Egypt has "expressed willingness to mediate" between Israel and Lebanon concerning security arrangements in south Lebanon after IDF troops withdraw, reported Tel Aviv *MA'ARIV*. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was said to have prepared a proposal currently being discussed in Beirut and Washington which mentions arrangements identical to those accepted by Israel at the time and implemented in the Sinai.

Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki arrived overland in B'abda where he began talks with President al-Jumayyil on 12 July, the Voice of Lebanon reported. Meanwhile, Minister of State for the South and Reconstruction Nabih Birri left on an official visit to Moscow after announcing that he would only meet with At-Turayki if the latter came to Beirut accompanied by Imam Musa as-Sadr, the Shi'ite leader who disappeared in Libya in 1978, according to Beirut radio.

In another development, Israel released two of the four people detained from the Cyprus-Beirut ferry though it is still holding the other two passengers on suspicion of having planned a terrorist attack from the sea, Jerusalem radio reported. "Authoritative" Israeli sources cited by the radio said that Israel was able to foil a "spectacular" terrorist attack from the sea by apprehending the two suspects, who are Lebanese residents of Palestinian origin.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad held separate meetings in Damascus with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Libyan Foreign Liaison Secretary At-Turayki, Damascus radio reported. Velayati also met with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, who expressed the hope that an Iranian victory over Iraq would allow "direct contact" between the Iranian and Syrian armies in the fight against Israel, according to IRNA.

French Diplomacy

After receiving French President Francois Mitterrand during a few hours' stopover in Cairo, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said that an international conference is one solution to the Middle East problem, MENA reported. Acting Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that while the French stand on this issue is compatible with Egypt's, the two presidents did not discuss the recent Egyptian-French initiative on the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir said there is no prospect of any political moves with Jordan until after the Israeli and U.S. elections, the radio added. Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche told Cheysson that Israel believes the best way to achieve peace in the area is through direct negotiations and bilateral contacts, ITIM noted.

OPEC

The 70th OPEC ministerial council conference ended in Vienna with decisions to maintain the present oil prices and production ceilings, OPECNA reported. The OPEC members also agreed to adjust Nigeria's production quota, reelected the conference's president and alternate president, and deferred further discussion concerning the appointment of a new secretary general, the agency added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Mujahidin Kill 16 Soviet, DRA Troops in Qandahar

LD112153 Riyadh SPA in English 1905 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] London, July 11, SPA — Afghan mujahidin have killed 16 Soviet-Karmal troops and destroyed two tanks and a trailer in an operation in Qandahar city, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported here today.

The agency said a group of mujahidin acting on advance information had ambushed a military convoy on June 1 at Nazar Jan Bagh in Qandahar city.

The mujahidin, who were armed with rocket launchers and light weapons, had also destroyed two tanks and a trailer, the agency added.

It said two mujahidin were killed and 13 injured during the operation.

Rebel Battle Victories Throughout Country Noted

GF110722 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Summary] Reports received from Ghowr Province indicated that the mujahidin attacked two Soviet-Karmal strongholds and destroyed them. They also killed several enemy soldiers. Later, the Soviet aircraft bombed the villages of (Marvan), (Kharu), (Shahab), and several other villages.

The Soviets also bombed several villages in Qandahar Province following mujahidin operations within Qandahar city and its suburbs. In this bombardment four aircraft were used. The bombardment killed three civilians, one of them a nine-year-old boy. Through posters distributed in Qandahar city, the mujahidin have issued warnings to the Soviet-Karmal regime and its supporters.

Reports received from Andarab indicate that for the past month the Soviet soldiers have been arresting and harassing refugees from the Panjsher valley. According to refugees from the area, the Russians have imprisoned many people charged with helping refugees from the Panjsher valley.

Party Meeting Place Hit

GF111840 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Our Islamic forces the mujahidin, blessed by God and full of valor, continue to expand their operations and work toward the establishment of an Islamic rule. With these blessed benedictions and the spirit of a holy war instilled in our mujahidin, a dark and painful future awaits the enemies of our Islamic Afghanistan.

Reports received from Kabul indicate that the mujahidin in their fight against the Soviet occupationist forces and the infidel Karmal regime have in a brave attack with rockets hit the puppet regime's factory of lies; detailed reports from Kabul radio are still awaited.

A correspondent of our Muslim mujahidin reported that one rocket hit the U.S. Embassy and another exploded near the Saudi Embassy in Kabul. There was a number of casualties.

Our Muslim mujahidin placed a quantity of explosives at the meeting place of the Khalq and Parcham parties. The explosion killed a number of these traitors. The explosion also inflicted heavy financial losses.

The reports noted the intensity of the explosion, yet do not mention the extent of damage done to the buildings around the spot or the number of people killed in that explosion. The mujahidin news center announced that the Muslim mujahidin in the past 2 days killed one Karmal officer and two prominent members of the political parties on the Kabul streets.

Reports received from Herat indicate that at Eslam Qal'eh a number of Muslim soldiers and officers in the Afghan Army mutinied against the joint Soviet-Karmal forces. The report said that the deputy commandant there shot and killed his commandant. Shots were further exchanged between the supporters of both groups, and as a result several persons were killed and wounded. The deputy commander later defected to the mujahidin with a number of his followers.

After this incident the occupationist forces and the Karmal mecenaries used fighter aircraft and helicopter gunships to attack mujahidin positions and then fled after bombarding several civilian targets.

The leader of the puppet regime, Babrak Karmal, who is facing bitter resistance from our Muslim nation, has now gone to Moscow for talks with his Soviet masters. The Karmal visit to Moscow has taken place at a time when the UN secretary general is expected to visit Moscow shortly to discuss Afghanistan's solution with the aggressive Soviet leaders in Moscow. Political observers, in view of the repeated defeats suffered by the Soviets and the Karmal mercenaries, are paying great attention to the Karmal visit to Moscow. The propaganda machinery of the Karmal regime has said that Karmal, the head of the Parcham party, has gone to Moscow for a medical checkup.

Briefs

Construction Pact With USSR — Kabul, July 10, BAKHTAR — A contract for purchasing construction machineries, equipment, electric transmission lines and building of a substation in Konduz Province worth of 2,911,100 million rubles was concluded here today between the DRA and the Soviet Union. The contract was signed from the Afghan side by Raz Mohammad Paktin, minister of power, and from the Soviet side by the deputy economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. The equipment will be delivered to the DRA within 22 months. With the completion of the project the demands of the inhabitants of Konduz and other neighbouring provinces of the DRA will be fully met. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 10 Jul 84 LD]

Opposition Protests Dismissal of Abdullah Ministry

BK121604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 84

[Text] Opposition leaders and four non-Congress-I chief ministers met the president, Giani Zail Singh, in New Delhi today and submitted a memorandum protesting against the dismissal of the Dr Farooq Abdullah ministry. They demanded dissolution of the state assembly and holding of fresh elections. They also urged the president to recall the governor. The memorandum was signed by the 19 opposition leaders and the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Tripura.

The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Mr Ghulam Mohammad Shah, called on the prime minister in New Delhi today and apprised her of the latest situation in the state. Mr Shah is reported to have brought to the notice of the prime minister the economic problems faced by the people and urged her to help the state government in solving the same.

Meanwhile, addressing a news conference in New Delhi, the former chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, described the present government in Jammu and Kashmir as unconstitutional. He said the government has been formed with the support of what he called defectors.

Abdullah Blames Government for Airline Hijacking

BK120938 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 12 Jul 84

[Text] New Delhi, July 12 (AFP) — The ousted chief minister of Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah, today accused Indian Premier Indira Gandhi's government of hijacking an Indian Airlines plane to Pakistan last week to discredit him, he told reporters here. "I formally charge Mrs. Gandhi's government of masterminding the hijacking to put blame on me and my administration," he said. "The hijacking was planned to show that I was sympathetic to the Sikhs...that I am a secessionist and communal...but I am not; I am as nationalist as any other Indian," he said, adding that he was against hijacking.

Mrs. Gandhi's spokesman was not available for comment.

"Events and evidence have proved that arms did not come inside the aircraft from Kashmir....they had come from Bombay," he said, replying to questions. The plane, with 264 passengers and crew members on board, was hijacked to Pakistan while on a domestic Indian [flight] on July 5 by a group of Sikhs. They surrendered to Pakistani authorities the following day.

Dr. Abdullah also accused Mrs. Gandhi's party of hatching a conspiracy to dismiss him from the office and said, "It is a tragegy and a big blow to democracy."

The governor of Kashmir sacked Dr. Abdullah July 2 after 12 members of his National Conference Party announced they had withdrawn support. The Congress (I) Party there extended its full support to a faction that earlier had broken away from his party, making the faction a majority group in the state assembly.

Dr. Abdullah has called for a campaign tomorrow to oppose his dismissal and to demand the removal of the present Kashmir government. Observers said the campaign, to be aided by major opposition parties, might snowball into a confrontation as the new government has banned all public meetings for tomorrow when a traditional maryrs day celebration is held. "I promise that it will be no violence from our side," Mr. Abdullah said.

He came to the Indian capital yesterday for a conference of opposition parties which in a rare show of unity sat together and announced their support for him.

The predominantly Moslem state of Kashmir, spanning 222,236 square kilometres (138,095 square miles) and the home of some six million people, is of great strategic importance for India, as it is bounded by Pakistan in the west, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the northwest, and China in the north. The territory is disputed between India and Pakistan and the countries have fought two wars over it.

Akali Dal: Suicide Squads To Liberate Golden Temple

OW111859 Hong Kong AFP in English 1841 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 11 (AFP) — The Sikh party Akali Dal today announced that its plan to send suicide squads to "liberate" the Golden Temple in Amritsar in Punjab from the Army on July 16 would include women, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Indian troops stormed the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, on June 5 to flush out Sikh militants who barricaded themselves in the complex. About 646 people were killed in the action.

The government had said that the Army would be withdrawn "only after it completes its assigned task."

A spokesman for the Akali Dal said that the party's plan to send the suicide squads was unchanged.

Meanwhile, security forces arrested 10 suspected Sikh militants and recovered arms and ammunitions in the northwestern state in the last 24 hours, the agency said.

In another despatch, PTI said one Baldev Singh, a soldier, deserted his barrack at Chandi Mandir near Chandigarh, the state capital, yesterday and had taken with him a rifle and a Sten gun.

The agency, quoting unofficial reports, however, put the number of deserters at four.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), which is controlling Sikh shrines in India, today described the government's white paper on events leading up to troop intervention in Punjab as a "propaganda to malign Sikhs all over the world and justify the attack on the Golden Temple."

The SGPC said it would publish a booklet to counter the "malicious propaganda" of the white paper, the agency said.

Akali Leaders Assail White Paper

BK111607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Some of the Akali leaders in Amritsar have criticized the white paper on Punjab. They described the paper as one-sided and a distortion of facts.

Gandhi Rejects Akali Demand for Temple Withdrawal

BK120811 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has turned down the latest Akali demand for the withdrawal of security forces from the Golden Temple complex and other gurdwaras [Sikh temples] before Monday next [16 July]. In an interview to the French newspaper *LE FIGARO*, she said the latest ultimatum of the Akalis shows a total lack of understanding of developments and of the present situation. We cannot have a repetition of the previous situation, she said. Mrs Gandhi said the need of the hour is a desire to get at the root of the problem, as ultimatums have already caused a great deal of harm. Regarding the healing touch after the Army operation, she said enough has been done in this regard in the last few days. The gurdwaras have been opened and hundreds of thousands of people are visiting them from different parts of country.

On resumption of talks between the government and the Akalis, she said they are not in a position for holding a dialogue; their general economic and other demands are being looked from all angles. She regretted the wrong projection of events in Pakistan's media. In spite of all these difficulties we are trying for friendship with Pakistan, she added.

Mrs Gandhi said that our country will not manufacture French Mirage-2000 fighters.

President Calls for Amity, Goodwill in Punjab

BK120604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jul 84

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has called upon the people of Punjab to create an atmosphere of goodwill, amity, and friendship. Addressing a group of young people from Punjab, who called on him at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house], the president said that some people in the state are misguided by false propaganda and there is a need to convince them of the true state of affairs. This can be done only if we treat them as our own family members.

Giani Zail Singh said that the primary task of all sections of the society is to replace hatred with love and win over the misguided people. He said certain disgruntled elements are responsible for the recent developments in the state. The president expressed the hope that the people of Punjab would once again prove their potentialities and set a new example of patriotism, nationalism, and secularism.

Assam Extends 'Disturbed' Status of 7 Areas

BK120608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Jul 84

[Text] The Assam government has declared areas under seven police stations in Goalpara and Dubri Districts as disturbed under the Armed Forces Act 1953 for a further period of 3 months. The areas covered under the order are Goalpara and Dudhnai in Goalpara District and Dubri, (Kalabganj), Samarhat, (Chapur) and (Bilasipara) in Dubri District.

SRV's Truong Chinh in Delhi en Route to Mongolia

BK111451 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] The Vietnamese president, Mr Truong Chinh, said India has always extended its support to the peaceful reconstruction of his country. He was talking to the All-India Radio correspondent, (Ratan Chagle), during his brief stopover in New Delhi today on his way to Mongolia.

President Truong Chinh also recalled the effective support provided by India to his country's struggle against colonialism and imperialism. He said India and Vietnam have age-old ties and achieved independence through similar struggle.

The president and his delegation were received by the external affairs secretary, Mr K. Natwar Singh, at the airport. Later, they left for Ulaanbaatar to participate in Mongolia's anniversary of independence.

Briefs

TV Transmitter Commissioned — A TV transmitter was commissioned today at Vadodara in Gujarat. It has a range of 2,000 square kilometers. It will cover a population of nearly 800,000 in urban areas and about 350,000 in rural areas. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 84 BK]

BANGLADESH

Official Says Elections Slated for 8 Dec

BK121423 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1300 GMT 12 Jul 84

[12 July address to the nation by Chief Election Commissioner Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam — live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear countrymen, peace be upon you. I am here today to make a statement on a very important issue facing the country and the nation. The president and chief martial law administrator [CMLA] in his 12 May address to the nation announced that elections to Parliament would be held during this winter and that he had requested that the Election Commission announce the election schedule for parliamentary elections.

The Election Commission has already taken the necessary steps in this regard and started work. Before I go into details, I would like to mention some of the related issues. We know that the president and CMLA had earlier announced the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections simultaneously, that is to say, on 27 May last. Following that announcement, the Election Commission started preliminary preparatory work. Besides other related steps, preparations were made for the acquisition of more ballot boxes on an emergency basis, as the existing ballot boxes were inadequate for holding both elections on the same day. Meanwhile, in view of the reaction of various political parties on holding parliamentary and presidential elections on the same day, the president started a dialogue with these parties. The president also held discussions with some other political parties earlier. We are fully aware of the substance of thse dialogues.

In view of these ongoing dialogues, the Election Commission naturally refrained from announcing the election schedule and program. When at a later stage, as a result of these dialogues, the government at last decided to hold parliamentary and presidential elections on two separate days, there was no time left to hold elections on the earlier announced date of 27 June. The month of holy Ramadan had [words indistinct] come and this year's rainy season also brought heavy rain and floods. Considering these issues, the Election Commission has fixed Saturday, 8 December of the current year as the date for parliamentary elections.

President Ershad Makes Changes in Cabinet

OW112214 Hong Kong AFP in English 2043 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Dhaka, July 11 (AFP) — Bangladeshi President Hussain Mohammad Ershad today allocated the Ministry of Jute and Textiles to Korban [name indistinct] (?and the) newly created Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation to Professor Mohammad Yusuf Ali, both of whom were inducted in the Cabinet Monday. Air Vice Marshal (retd) K.M. Aminul Islam, who was the minister for jute and textiles, was transferred to the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation — a portfolio that remained vacant since Foreign Minister Aminur Rahman Shamsud Doha declined to take it up.

Ershad Promises Efforts on Socioeconomic Issues

BK111718 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said he will join politics to implement the socioeconomic program undertaken by his government. He was addressing the executive body of the central command council of the Bangladesh Mukti Jodha Sangsad [Freedom Fighters Organization] in Dhaka yesterday. The president said since his government took over the country's administration 27 months ago, it had adopted various reformative measures to improve the socioeconomic condition of the people.

PAKISTAN

Zia Discusses Relations With India, Afghanistan

BK111309 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the future system of government in country will be based on "shooracracy" [system of consultation] and the new national assembly will be named as Majlis-i-Shoora [Advisory Council]. Inaugurating the 10th session of the Majlis-i-Shoora in Islamabad today, he said this step was based on Islamic democracy.

About the energy situation he said there was no alternative to the acquisition of nuclear technology to meet the growing needs of energy in the country. He reiterated that Pakistan's nuclear program was purely for peaceful purposes. Referring to the nonproliferation treaty, he said, the countries which wanted Pakistan to be a signatory to it should also include countries like South Africa, Israel, and India, which had the nuclear capability. He referred to his offer to India to sign a bilateral agreement for joint inspection of their nuclear installations and said that there had been no reply from India even after 2 years.

Turning to foreign policy, the president said it was based on close relations with the Muslim countries, especially the Middle East, nonalignment and friendship with China. He said Pakistan is the backyard of the Gulf and it had always worked hard for the unity of the Muslim ummah [community]. He said Pakistan not only believed in nonalignment but had also made every effort to make the movement a success.

About Pakistan's relations with the United States, he said, these were now on the correct line after temporary ups and downs. About relations with the Soviet Union, he said, Pakistan has no problem with that country except Afghanistan. About the Afghanistan problem, the president said a new round of indirect talks will be held in Geneva next month in their effort to seek a political solution to the problem. He hopes that the Soviet Union would try to make the indirect talks a success. He categorically said Pakistan was not fighting any war within Afghanistan being waged by the mujahidin. He also referred to India's stand on Afghanistan and regretted that the leadership of that country would not openly raise its voice along with other countries against foreign intervention although, he said, they had a similar viewpoint.

The president said Pakistan sincerely desires to have relations with India, free of [word indistinct] suspicion so that the two countries could concentrate their resources for the welfare of their people. Pakistan's efforts received a setback as a result of accusations against it of interference in the internal affairs of India made by responsible Indian leaders. The history shows that the situation is just the reverse. Pakistan as a Muslim country does not believe in interference in the internal affairs of other countries and it would not allow others to interfere in its internal affairs.

Referring to the situation in East Punjab, he again emphatically stated that Pakistan had no hand in the situation there. He said Pakistan believes that instead of (?approbation) the two countries should develop mutual understanding and amity, forgetting the differences of the past.

The president highly praised Radio Pakistan and Pakistani television for their correct presentation of the situation both at home and abroad and for highlighting the weaknesses of society. This had earned them credibility at home and abroad.

Military Court Sentences 2 for Terrorism

BK100557 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jul 84

[Text] A summary military court in Lahore has sentenced two persons — Ataullah and Maksood Ahmed — to rigorous imprisonment of 2 years and 1 year and 9 months, respectively, for terrorist activity.

Briefs

Naval Chief to UK — Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan, commander of the Navy, has left Islamabad on a 10-day official visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of Britain's first sea lord, Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse. During his stay in the United Kingdom he will visit British naval ships and installations. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Jul 84 BK]

SRI LANKA

Security Minister on Drive Against Terrorism

BK111152 Colombo International Service in English 1130 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, has warned the northern terrorists that whatever the strategy they pursue, the Armed Forces in the country will never allow them to succeed in their attempt. The minister has appealed to the people to ensure peace and give an opportunity to the Armed Forces to wipe out terrorism from the land.

Addressing a public meeting held in the Eheliyagoda electorate yesterday evening, Mr Athulathmudali explained that terrorism in the country should be wiped out gradually as it could not be done within a day or two. He revealed that the terrorists were trying to create trouble again this month. Therefore, it was necessary for the people in other areas to realize this fact and act wisely. The terrorists were now engaged in the massacre of those who are against their campaign in the north and were also trying to win world sympathy again.

The minister regretted that certain opposition political parties did not cooperate with the government to find a political solution to the problem. However, he said, the present government will do everything possible even without their cooperation to ensure the sovereignty and the protection of the country.

The minister also disclosed that the government had planned to further expand the surveillance zone and expressed the government's commitment to continue the various development programs while allocating money for security purposes.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Communique Issued at Close of Maldives SARC Meeting

BK111225 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] South Asian nations have expressed concern over the deteriorating economic and social conditions in the developing world and of the continued stalemate in negotiations on international cooperation. In a joint communique issued at the end of the 2-day meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation at Villingili in the Maldives, they expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress in international support measures to meet the developmental need of the Third World countries. The meeting decided to convey its concern to the rich nations over their refusal to increase the resources available for IDA-7 and other sources of concessional finance.

The communique says that in view of the urgency of the matter, the ministers requested the chairman of the meeting, Mr Fathulla Jameel, to convey this to industrialised nations, particularly the prime minister of Japan.

The All-India Radio special correspondent, Manohar Takroo, says that Japan has been specially mentioned as the Japanese prime minister had promised to take up the matter with the industrialised nations in support of the developing countries during his tour to some South Asian nations.

On the question relating to mutual cooperation among the seven countries, the communique calls for increasing emphasis on specific projects. The communique says that the foreign ministers will meet again in May next at Thimpu, capital of Bhutan. The summit-level meeting will be held in Dhaka in the latter part of 1985.

Shortly before conclusion of the conference, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, called on the president of the Maldives, Mr Gayoom, and discussed with him matters relating to South Asian regional cooperation.

Tehran Notes UK Protest Over Tanker Attack

LD111708 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Following yesterday's attack by an unknown aircraft against a British oil tanker in the Persian Gulf, AFP reported: The British Government holds Iran responsible for this attack and has protested to Iran on this issue.

Oil Minister Gharazi Assesses Vienna OPEC Meeting

GF110715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Interview with Petroleum Minister Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi by unidentified correspondent of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Vienna on 10 July — recorded]

[Excerpts] In answer to a question about the discussions over an increase in the OPEC base prices by $5 per barrel and also about selection of the new secretary general of OPEC from Iran, Engineer Gharazi said:

[Begin recording] [Seyyed Mohammad Gharazi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Hail to the ever-vigilant imam of the nation. The main Iranian aim in the latest OPEC conference is to raise the issue of the $5 increase and to continue our earlier policies. (?At the start), we stated that bringing the price of oil down will under no circumstances generate demand and will only result in a loss to the producers. (?In the latest confrontations) we again raised the issue and [words indistinct] statistics, and by offering a detailed report to the conference, we stated that the reduction in the oil prices did not increase world oil production and that the $5 just benefitted companies and (?the Western and European countries). A number of countries support the Iranian proposal and it is under discussion. However, since then the governments that brought down the prices have arranged the market — during the present conference's duration — so that the free market oil prices are below that of OPEC and below $29. They are frightening others about discussing this $5, and many countries are concerned about how to maintain the $29 level. Their argument has always been that the [words indistinct] quotas should be maintained: Those who should maintain the prices must continue to do so. That is to say, those who control the market by their production — this has been the domain of Saudi Arabia — should carry out their duty. However, Saudi Arabia should not produce more than 5 million barrels of oil per day and its production has currently reached (?5.5 million) and [words indistinct] and keeping them at sea. [brief passage indistinct]

The Iranian duty has always been to discuss this issue and state that this is a condition created by others and that supply and demand [words indistinct] to have $34 per barrel.

[Unidentified correspondent] (?There is the issue) of additional production by Saudi Arabia and the request by [names indistinct] for an increase in their production quota. How did the discussions on this go?

[Gharazi] The report that was offered by the market monitoring committee advocated that the ceiling should be (?17.5 million). Those who are asking for a larger quota should realize that their increase cannot be taken from other people's quota and that this should be a slice of the market which, given the current conditions, will (?depress the market). [words indistinct] looks unlikely to accept an increase in quota for any country under any circumstances and also wants Saudi Arabia, which has very good capabilities, to keep its own share lower, and to carry out its duty so that the prices are stabilized.

[Correspondent] The other question is [words indistinct] candidates for OPEC secretary general. What is the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran on selection of a secretary general from one of these countries.

[Gharazi] The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the post to be a prestigious one. It is true that the issue can be subject to general discussions. However, we announced in the conference that the issue is a matter of prestige between Iran and the countries of the southern Persian Gulf, and we will not allow others to use repeated [word indistinct] and political pressure to trample the right of the Iranian nation. As one of the [words indistinct] of OPEC, Iran is next in line for the post and will introduce its secretary general. We will not allow anything else and we are [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Gharazi] Thank you. [end recording]

Opposes Quota Increases

LD111103 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Vienna, July 11, IRNA — Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi Tuesday said that Iran would oppose any demand for increase in the quota of oil production of OPEC member countries.

Speaking to reporters here, he said that Saudi's oil policy was the important factor for present disorder in international oil market.

Gharazi criticised Saudi Arabia for not observing its production quota and for decreasing oil prices in the world markets.

Gharazi said Saudi Arabia produced 5 million barrels of oil per day, and had 70 million barrels as floating oil reserves.

He added Saudi Arabia attempted to keep oil prices even lower than its present 29 dollars per barrel.

Gharazi said the main condition for the stabilisation of the present oil market was a five-dollar increase per barrel. Although some member countries, including Algeria, are said to be supporting Iran for five-dollar increase, Gharazi believes that they could not express their opinion due to the pressure exerted by Saudi oil policies.

Concerning the venue for the next OPEC meet, due to be held by the end of this year, Gharazi said that proposals of Japan and

Yugoslavia to host the conference were rejected while Geneva was selected as the venue of the next meeting.

Despite re-election of Iraqi representative as deputy secretary general, OPEC meeting on Tuesday failed to elect a new secretary general. The issue would be discussed at today's meeting.

Gharazi once again reiterated that Iran would, under no condition, forego its right to hold the position of secretary general of OPEC.

Warns Against Overproduction

LD120857 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 12 Jul 84

[Text] Vienna, July 12, IRNA — Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi Wednesday outlined results of the 70th ordinary meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), held here Tuesday.

Referring to the increase in production quota of Nigeria, Gharazi said that it was decided to be increased 100,000 to 150,000 barrels of per day. He added that the decision was made following a message from Nigerian president to the conference who had pointed out his country's problems caused by low oil production.

Concerning other subjects discussed by the conference, Gharazi referred [to] non-observance of OPEC quota by certain member countries and said that an OPEC delegation to supervise oil market would visit African and Persian Gulf oil-producing countries to discuss oil production quotas with leaders of those countries.

The oil minister added that in case the issue was not taken seriously, next winter and spring might witness further problems.

The conference also decided [on] holding of a consultative conference in Geneva or Vienna within the next two or three months to exchange views with oil ministers after gathering required information.

On the election of new OPEC secretary general, Gharazi said that for the position all the 13 members should note, adding that due to Iraq-Iran war the issue has been suspended. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, Gharazi visited war crippled house in Vienna Wednesday where he met with Islamic combatants wounded in Iraqi-imposed war.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,785

LD111736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Communique No 1,785 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] Exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued sporadically in the past 24 hours between our powerful forces and the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on most of the fronts of the imposed war. On the southern fronts exchanges of fire were more intense in the Kushk, Hoseyniyeh, (Zeyd) and (Zobeydat) regions. Continuing to consolidate their defense positions, the combatants of Islam on every front carried out patrol operations, foiled the enemy's patrol activities, and fired on the enemy's positions, defense lines, units, and supply and communication routes. On the northwestern fronts the enemy's supply movements and the traffic of vehicles carrying enemy personnel were stopped or disrupted; more than 17 enemy personnel were killed and at least 6 slit trenches and foxholes of the Saddamists were destroyed. On the western fronts three observation posts, three trenches, and one loader of the Iraqi forces were completely destroyed, and eight of the Saddam's blaspheming forces were killed or wounded.

In the Sumar and Mehran fronts our air defense forces' fire prevented an air raid by an enemy reconnaissance aircraft and helicopter.

In the Chazzabeh and Khorramshahr regions our forces sighted enemy patrol groups; by opening fire on them they prevented the activities of the enemy's patrol groups and, after inflicting losses and casualities on them, forced them to flee. In the regions to the northwest of Khorramshahr the operations and activities of an Iraqi engineering unit which was consolidating and completing defense positions were stopped.

On the Arvand Rud front the heroes of the Gendarmerie and the Navy returned fire on enemy positions and units, stopped their engineering activities and movements, and destroyed a personnel carrier, two engineering vehicles, and five trenches of the Saddamist forces, killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel.

At 0700 yesterday two enemy shells hit the village of Golina in an area to the south of Sar Dasht; one of the inhabitants was martyred and another wounded.

Various areas of the city of Abadan came under the enemy's heavy weapons fire yesterday. One school, eight houses and shops, and three cars were damaged.

5 Killed, 2 Wounded in Iraqi Attack on Abadan

LD111832 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Ahvaz, July 11, IRNA — Five civilians were martyred and 2 others wounded in a village in Abadan as the city was subjected to heavy barrages of Iraqi long-range heavy artillery fire during the past 24 hours. Also 6 houses, 2 shops and a school were damaged and 3 cars destroyed in the city.

Meanwhile the city of Khorramshahr was also shelled by Iraqi heavy artillery during the same period, damaging parts of the city buildings.

The Iraqi Ba'thist regime despite its pledge not to attack residential quarters of Iranian cities is still continuing its shelling of Iran's southern cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr.

Majlis Speaker Meets With Military Officials

Addresses Navy Commanders

LD111012 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that the Persian Gulf was the economic throat of Iran and the region; therefore, Iran's enemies had hatched pre-arranged plots to threaten the security of waterway. But, he stressed, they should know that if this waterway was deprived of security, the whole region would become insecure.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council, was addressing a group of visiting commanders and personnel of political-ideological department of the Navy accompanied by commander of naval forces Captain Esfandiyar Hoseyni.

In the past Westerners regarded themselves as owners of the waterway while the Easterners considered the region as one of the strategic objectives of the Soviet Union, Majlis speaker noted, adding that the present movement in Afghanistan indicated that they had not yet become disappointed.

He further added that reactionary regimes in the region had, for no reason, been influenced by adverse propaganda of imperialism and were afraid of the Islamic Republic and, therefore, would embark on vicious futile attempts.

"But," Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated, "if here loses its security, the whole region will become insecure." [sentence as received]

Referring to the active presence of the naval forces in the waterway, the Majlis speaker said that although only a small part of those forces had taken part in the Iraqi-imposed war, it had almost completely destroyed the enemy's naval forces and paralyzed the rest.

Iran's naval forces, he noted, were safeguarding security of the Strait of Hormuz with full power as well as of the Oman Sea and Sistan and Baluchestan coasts. He said that Iran's naval forces had remained intact and had acquired an experience of four years of fighting.

Commenting on the plots hatched by international imperialism in the Persian Gulf, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that imperialists, in order to compensate losing of Iranian coasts, had embarked on an arms rivalry and would deliver Stinger missiles and other weapons to the regional states.

But, he emphasised, one day revolutionaries in these Muslim countries would use such weapons against those imperialists.

Receives Joint Staff Chief

LD111738 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran July 11, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received here today the chief of the Joint Staff General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad and other members of the command.

Zahirnezhad presented a report on the general standing of the Army to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani who is also the imam's representative in the Supreme Defence Council (SDC).

The imam's SDC representative advised the military officials on the matters discussed.

Briefed on SAIRI Activities

LD112025 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was briefed today on the activities of Iraqi mujahideen against the Ba'thist regime in Bagdhad and their participation in the war along their Iranian brothers.

The head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) in a meeting with the speaker this evening gave a complete report on the activities of SAIRI in its fourth terr. as well as its organization inside Iraq.

He said about 50 members of SAIRI's volunteer forces had been martyred so far in the war and 200 had been wounded.

A report on the situation of Iraqi Kurds was also presented in which he said Iraqi Kurdish combatants were currently fighting the Iraqi forces in the northwestern and western fronts.

Guards Official Explains Enlistment Process

GF111228 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Jun 84 p 2

[Text] The District 10 commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Tehran said that with the implementation of the new programs, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has the capacity to enlist with the least possible delay more than 100,000 volunteers every year. Mr Moballigh, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, announced this in a press conference and said that volunteers may report for duty to the bases of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Tehran, where they will then be assigned to the military training centers for a period of 7 to 10 days. He added that in order to facilitate their enlistment, use will be made of the records of their enrollment in mobilization or Labbayk Ya Khomeyni courses. If they have acquired any expertise or speciality during those courses, that will be duly taken into consideration.

He said: A plan has been set up, according to which a brother guard will fill in a form listing his five choices for wings of the Guards Corps that he wishes to join. This will enable him to join his preferred wing when the first vacancy is available. In view of the importance of the duties of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in combating the plots of the world oppressors, he asked the draftees to report forthwith to the Guards Corps bases concerned and to take up their duties in the Guards Corps after obtaining the necessary training.

The Guards Corps commander explained that volunteers for the Guards Corps can report to the registration centers 6 months to 1 year before they are due to serve their conscription period and get the necessary forms to be filled in, giving dates of their enlistment. After the draftees have had their training, their expertise, literacy, experience, and specialities will be taken into account and they will be asked to report at the centers which are in need of their qualifications.

The commander of the Guards Crops then said: After a period of 6 months and up to the end of their conscription period, the draftees can apply for permament enlistment in the Guards Corps. Their applications will go through necessary channels, and finally they will be accepted permanently in the Guards Corps. Their salaries and allowances will be the same as those paid to the personnel in the Army on the scale which has been ratified by the Majlis. He then referred to the needs of the Guards Corps in various fields and asked all those who have graduated from the universities or secondary schools and are due for military service to spend their 2 years of military service in the Gaurds Corps and avail themselves of the facilities which are being offered by the Guards Corps. Their expertise and specialities will duty be taken into consideration by the Guards Corps.

The commander stressed that the forces which have specialities required by the Guards Crops will be taken advantage of in the best possible way and they will be given priority in enlistment in their fields of speciality. Moreover, the enlistment process will be completed for them in the minimum time possible.

In conclusion, Mr Moballigh said that he will accept more than 100,000 draftees every year.

Anti-Saddam Leaflets Distributed in Iraq
LD111512 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Reports received here indicate that Iraqi Muslim opposition to Saddam's regime is escalating.

Informed sources from Kurdestan of Iraq reported that tracts opposing Saddam's regime have been widely distributed in Irbil and Sulaymaniyah cities of Iraq during the past few days.

The tracts described so-called Iraqi People's Army as an anti-popular organ and called on Iraqi forces to sever their ties with this army so as not to continue sharing in Saddam's crimes.

Iraqi security forces have so far been unable to locate the sources responsible for printing and distributing the anti-regime material.

It is to be noted that following the blast at the so-called Iraqi People's Army HQ in Zafaraniyah, in Baghdad a few days ago, a spokesman for Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries announced that these operations would continue until the overthrow of Saddam's regime.

Khamene'i Meets With Ayatollah Khomeyni
LD111800 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The president and head of the Supreme Defence Council, 'Ali Khamene'i, met and talked with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, here today.

Cabinet, Judicial Council Discuss Joint Issues
LD111515 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The first joint session of the Cabinet ministers and the High Judicial Council was held here this morning and discussed joint issues of the judicial and executive powers.

Head of the High Judicial Council, Ayatollah Abdulkarim Musavi-Ardabili, and Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, speaking after the session in a press conference, said that joint problems and issues related to the two powers were discussed in the meeting.

Ayatollah Ardabili further added that since certain issues concerned judicial and executive matters such joint sessions should be held occasionally to come up with solutions for them.

On appointment of new minister of justice and coordination between judicial and executive power, Ayatollah Ardabili said that it would be clarified in the near future. He further stressed that more cooperation between the two branches of the government would enable both of them to progress quicker.

Prime Minister Musavi, commenting on Cabinet reshuffle, said that ministers of the vacant ministries would be introduced soon.

Economic Council Seeks Increased Wheat Production
LD111107 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi presided over High Economic Council Tuesday.

The meeting studied methods to increase wheat production and emphasised employment of suitable and modern techniques adopted in other countries for the revival of cultivation and production of wheat.

The session urged dry farming and noted that by dry farming farmers in some parts of the country could produce about three tons of wheat in a hectar.

Hajj Seminar Ends, Issues Resolution
LD111007 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The three-day hajj seminar attended by supervisors of hajj pilgrimage caravans ended here Tuesday by issuing a ten-point resolution.

The resolution stressed that the holy houses, holy Mecca and Medina, were two major Islamic bases and belonged to all Muslims. Therefore, it stressed that certain political objectives of the Saudi regime could not determine the hajj pilgrimage ceremonies.

It further emphasised restoration of holy places in Saudi Arabia such as tombs of the great Islamic personalities who are buried in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore it called on for greater unity among Muslims of the world and urged them to refrain from any act which would weaken their unity.

While condemning any compromising move such as the Camp David accord, it called on world Muslims to take measures for annihilation of international Zionism and urged to rise to liberate the occupied Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa mosque.

Kuwait Expels 40 More Iranian Muslims

LD111226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] Continuing its hostile measures, the Kuwait Government has expelled a further 40 Iranian Muslims from that country. According to a report from the Central News Unit, over the past few days they have entered the ports of Bushehr and (Genavi) via Iranian Persian Gulf territorial waters, traveling in motor launches, and have settled in the special deportees camp. The number of Iranians expelled from Kuwait from the second half of Esfand 62 [20 February-20 March] now exceeds 1,180.

Registration Instituted for Afghan Immigrants

LD091633 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Text] The Governorate of Tehran announces in a statement: For statistical purposes and in order to provide facilities such as ration coupons, school registration lists, travel permits, and other things for our immigrant Afghan brothers and sisters, they will be registered over the next 2 months starting 23 July. The Governorates of Tehran, Karaj, Berimvand, Rey, and Damavand will announce the addresses of registration centers later. All Afghan immigrants are asked to present themselves to the registration centers within the given time limit in order to show their respect for the regulations and instructions of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the host country, and in order to be able to take advantage of the facilities and services offered and to assist the officials who provide such necessary services. After registration, identification documents will be issued. It should be understood that after this deadline, Afghan immigrants who have not obtained identification cards will be dealt with in accordance with legal regulations.

Upon arriving at the registration centers, each Afghan must submit six passport-size photographs and 200 rials in cash to cover the cost of issuing identification cards.

Political Prisoners Released in Hormuzgan

GF111640 Bandar 'Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, on the recommendation of the Supreme Judicial Council and with the approval of the great leader of the Islamic revolution yesterday, in the presence of the chief shari'a official and judge of the Islamic court in Hormuzgan Province, and in the presence of the families of prisoners, 50 prisoners who had belonged to counterrevolutionary groups and who have repented their past actions were released and returned to the loving fold of Islam.

It may be recalled that some time ago on the orders of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, 178 prisoners who were counterrevolutionaries were released in the province.

The governor general of Hormuzgan Province has called on those who are still misled and have not yet submitted to the leadership of the imam to return to the warm and forgiving breast of Islam and take advantage of the pardon offered by Islam.

Iraq's Failure to Reply to UN on Chemical Arms Hit

GF101902 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 9 Jul 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar called on Iran and Iraq some time ago to pledge not to resort to chemical arms. He also asked that the requested pledge be conveyed to him within 3 days.

In a letter he wrote in reply to Perez de Cuellar, President Khamene'i recalled that Iran, taking into consideration Islamic and humanitarian principles throughout the course of the war, has never resorted to the use of chemical arms and will not do so in the future.

Although a week has lapsed since the call made by the UN secretary general, Saddam's Ba'thist regime has not made any favorable move. An official disclosure issued by the United Nations last Friday said that the Iraqi regime has chosen a policy of silence over the request.

President Khamene'i's letter, which has informed Perez de Cuellar that Islamic Iran accepts the call for avoiding the use of chemical arms by the sides concerned, has pushed the Saddam regime into yet another political impasse. The Zionist Iraqi Ba'thists, who have been supporting biased decisions taken by the imperialists in the international arena regarding the war and who have been trying to present themselves as favoring peace with the support of mass media organs serving international imperialism, have been totally silent in the face of the call for avoidance of chemical arms. As such they are ridiculing themselves and exposing their murderous faces.

Taking these realities into consideration, the oppressed of the world must understand who respects human values and favors peace and who pretends to be peaceful, intentionally misleads

world opinion, and commits numerous crimes behind propaganda moves.

Iraqi Policy Causing Dilemma for Gulf States

GF111045 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Jun 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Oppression and Its Allies Are Being Disarmed"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This week is now ending with a flood of mobilization volunteers moving toward the frontiers. By relying on the people's great power, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to retain its independence on the political scene. After a period when world oppression was trying to create a propaganda uproar in the Persian Gulf, everyone is now waiting for the final step by the Islamic combatants. Baghdad is more worried than ever, but continues bragging. However, Saddam knows that even his friends do not believe his statements, which have no basis in fact.

This tense situation came about because the Islamic Republic kept its actions and statements balanced, even in the midst of the propaganda of world oppression, and thereby rendered futile the efforts of world oppression. The continuation of this approach has the caused disagreements between friends of the Baghdad regime and this has forced the royal courts of the area to rethink the issue.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker for the Supreme Defense Council, said in the Friday sermon in Tehran: If we are forced to, we will react in the Persian Gulf, but if Iraq stops its misdeeds in the Persian Gulf then we, for our part, will not create any problems. The statement, made during a critical period in the Persian Gulf which has stretched the limits of Arab reaction, could be interpreted as overlooking the wrongdoers.

On the same subject the Saudi Arabian radio expressed its pleasure with the position that the Islamic Republic has taken and implied that it is worried about the continuation of the stupid policies of the Baghdad regime, which has pinned its hopes on the confusion in the Persian Gulf and has been looking for its salvation in the murky waters of the Persian Gulf. Iraq showed its "concern" about the return of peace to the Gulf by sending special messengers and sarcastic and threatening notes to the royal courts of the area, reminding them that Baghdad cannot be forced to observe their standards. The information minister of Iraq even formally announced that because the Iraqi Navy has lost all of its capabilities, any ship in the Persian Gulf is considered a military target for the Iraqi planes and that Baghdad will not hesitate to attack merchant ships or oil tankers. Adoption of this position does not demonstrate that the Baghdad regime is powerful or confident. On the contrary, it confirms that Baghdad has reached such a level of helplessness that it continues these attacks even though its friends asked the Security Council to issue a resolution condemning attacks on merchant ships and oil tankers.

There are reliable reports that the royal courts in the area are suffering from a painful dilemma, because they are not willing to support the Baghdad regime as openly as before. This is due to their doubts about their future, and they cannot change their relationship with the Baghdad regime, which is not bound to any standard or principle. These reports refer particularly to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, both of which border Iraq. Even Kuwaiti officials have shown a tendency toward a clear declaration of neutrality and a review of their policies on the 44-month-old war of Iraq and Iraq.

Kuwait is worried about its border with Iraq. The Kuwaitis do not know what could happen along the border if the Islamic combatants are concentrated in the Basrah axis. Should it open its borders to war refugees and the wounded? Will ensuing problems drive the restless Kuwaiti society to an unexpected action? Will its borders be secure if the activities of the Islamic Army are successful, and should Kuwait assume its position soon so that it will not be confronted with the repercussions of something it has done? This concern can be clearly seen in the statements of Kuwaiti officials. The Kuwaiti officials feel that their future is sadly linked with that of Iraq. The British newspaper *THE GUARDIAN* has said that the high-ranking Kuwaiti officials are not able to separate themselves from Saddam. It is surprising that this is the only way for the Kuwaiti officials and that they will not be able to find another solution to rescue Kuwait from a huge crisis resulting from heavy movements and fluctuations caused by the war around the Basrah axis. Kuwaiti diplomacy is famous for flexibility and understanding of obvious truths, and we will have to wait and see whether or not the planners of diplomacy in this sheykhdom will be able to take up a reasonable and logical position in this matter.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are right to worry about future events, because they know that the situation has reached a decisive level and that it is not logical for them to play around with their own future. If Iraq is worried and is trying hard to keep the royal courts on its side, this is because it knows that if the governments in the area turn their backs on Iraq, then its escape route will be closed sooner. Iraq does not have the endurance to act on principle, because the current situation is completely to the disadvantage of the aggresser. Even former friends now do not show any interest in Iraq. Iraq is crying that it started the war to represent Arab reaction, but there is no longer anyone to answer its cries. In the middle of this, the wicked king of Jordan thinks he can singlehandedly answer the vast requirements of Baghdad. At the same time he is giving aid, he is saying with a sad voice that the situation is hopeless in his view.

Now we refer to the other event of this week, which is the hijacking of an Iranian plane by eight people, which refueled in one of the sheykhdoms and then took off for Egypt. The Egyptian officials thought they had come across an advantageous situation, and in order to buy tume they sent a high-ranking official for discussions. The plane then took off for Europe; and even France, the birthplace of terrorism, announced that this time it was against the hijacking of this plane. With this incident, the helplessness of the world oppressors becomes obvious. They cannot use their usual methods to achieve their goals, so they helplessly disapprove of it. It is an obvious fact that world oppression is gradually being disarmed in the face of the Islamic revolution and is being forced into a disgraceful retreat.

Resistance Council Scores Islamic Regime

GF111646 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Jul 84

[Statement issued by the Council of the National Resistance Movement of Iran in Paris — date not given]

[Text] The Council of the National Movement of Iran met in Paris on 9 July 84 corresponding to the anniversary of the national uprising on 9 July 1980 under the chairmanship of Dr Shapur Bakhtiar. The meeting lasted 2 days. With its endless blessings on the sacrifices of the martyrs of 9 July 1980 and on all the sons of the land who had lost their lives in various campaigns against the Khomeyni regime and in sympathy with all the Iranian families who during the regime of the bloodthirsty mullahs are living in mourning for their near and dear ones, the Council considers it necessary to convey its appreciation and praise for the steadfastness and determination of the Iranian nation in their campaign against the corrupt and the deprived regime of the Islamic Republic.

The Council applauds and supports the efforts of this movement in its campaign against the Islamic Republic inside and outside the country. Furthermore, the Council stresses further efforts to widen the scope of their national efforts and to achieve the goals and aspirations of the National Resistance Movement, to restore the constitutional monarchy in Iran, and achieve national sovereignty.

The Council requests that the (?leaders) of the movement make use of all the national forces and resources which are available inside the country and also through international sources to expand the movement and make use of all the devices so that the Iranian nation can, at the very first opportunity, bring to its knees the despotic regime of the despicable rulers and establish its sovereignty over the Iranian territory.

[Signed] Council of the National Resistance Movement, Paris

Briefs

Talks With Saudi Envoys — Tehran, July 11, IRNA — The Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires here, Marvan Bashir ar-Rumi, along with the embassy's consul, today met and held talks with the Islamic Republic's hajj affairs officials. Various hajj issues and dispatching of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca in the current year were discussed in this meeting. [Text][Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 11 Jul 84 LD]